

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Long-term local anesthesia is provided by administering to a subject in need thereof a liposomal anesthetic formulation prepared by the dehydration-rehydration method. In this method, lyophilized liposomes encapsulating the local anesthetic are rehydrated by agitating them in an aqueous medium. Preferably this method includes the further step of washing the rehydrated liposomes in hyperosmotic saline solution.

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